

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A computer-implemented method comprising:  
requesting connection information from an application server to another node;  
accessing a key phrase to decrypt the requested connection information, responsive to the request for the connection information; and  
obtaining the requested connection information from a secure storage file in a file system.
- 2 (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the key phrase comprises:  
accessing the key phrase from a file system of the application server.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the key phrase comprises:  
accessing the key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the central directory is a profile directory of the distributed system.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing the key phrase comprises:  
prompting for input to the application server that provides the key phrase.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein  
the another node includes a database and wherein requesting connection information comprises:  
requesting database connection information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein database connection information includes at least one of:
- a password for the database; and
  - an address for the database.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the address for the database is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the key phrase includes a system identifier to identify the system requesting the connection information.
10. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- combining a system identifier of the application server with the key phrase to obtain an effective encryption key.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- decrypting the obtained connection information with the accessed key phrase.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein decrypting the obtained connection information comprises:
- decrypting the obtained connection information with a triple Data Encryption Standard (DES) algorithm.
13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the obtained connection information includes a Java string.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein requesting connection information in an application server comprises:

automatically requesting a connection to a database.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein automatically requesting a connection to a database comprises automatically requesting a connection to a database on initialization of the application server.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the application server is a Web application server.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the Web application server complies with the J2EE standard.

18. (Original) A system comprising:  
an application server to access a key phrase responsive to a request to connect with a node;

a central directory to store a value string and to provide the value string to the application server responsive to receiving the key phrase from the application server; and  
the node to provide requested data to the application server.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the node is a database system.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the node is a relational database system.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20, wherein the request to connect to the node is a request to establish a connection with the relational database system.
22. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the application server is a Web application server.
23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the Web application server is implemented according to the Java 2 Enterprise Edition Standard.
24. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the application server includes a system identifier to identify the application server and the key phrase is to be combined with the system identifier prior to sending the key phrase to the central directory.
25. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the stored value string includes at least one of:
- a password to connect with the remote node; and
  - an address of the remote node.
26. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the application server includes a file system and the key phrase is to be accessed from the application server's file system.
27. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the value string is to be stored in a data store of the central directory.
28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the data store of the central directory is encrypted.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the data store is encrypted with a triple DES algorithm.
30. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the data store of the central directory may be transitioned from storing unencrypted data to storing encrypted data.
31. (Original) An application server comprising:  
a network interface to connect to another node; and  
a processor and logic executable thereon to  
receive a request for connection information to another node,  
access a key phrase to decrypt the requested connection information,  
responsive to the request for connection information, and  
obtain the requested connection information from a secure storage file in a file system.
32. (Original) The application server of claim 31, wherein the processor and logic executable thereon to access the key phrase comprises:  
a processor and logic executable thereon to access the key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system.
33. (Original) The application server of claim 31, wherein  
the another node is a database; and  
wherein the processor and logic executable thereon to request connection information includes a processor and logic executable thereon to request database connection information.

34. (Original) The application sever of claim 33, wherein the database connection information includes at least one of:
- a password for the database; and
  - an address for the database.
35. (Original) The application server of claim 34, wherein
- the application server is a Web application server; and wherein
  - the address for the database is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).
36. (Original) A system comprising:
- means for requesting connection information from an application server to another node;
  - means for accessing a key phrase to decrypt the requested connection information, responsive to the request for the connection information; and
  - means for obtaining the requested connection information from a secure storage file in a file system.
37. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the means for accessing a key phrase comprises:
- means for accessing the key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system.
38. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein
- the another node is a database system; and
  - wherein the means for requesting connection information includes means for requesting database connection information.
39. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:

an electronically accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to

request connection information from an application server to a database;

access a key phrase to decrypt the requested connection information, responsive to the request for the connection information; and

obtain the requested connection information from a secure storage file in a file system.

40. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to access the key phrase include instructions that cause the apparatus to

access the key phrase from a file system of the application server.

41. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to access the key phrase include instructions that cause the apparatus to

access the key phrase from a central directory of a distributed system.

42. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39 wherein the instructions that, when executed by an apparatus, cause the apparatus to access the key phrase include instructions that cause the apparatus to

prompt a user of the application server to provide the key phrase.

43. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39, the requested connection information includes at least one of:

a password for the database; and  
an address for the database.